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AN APPARENTLY NEW FRUIT BAT OF THE *PTEROPUS* *HYPOMELANUS* GROUP FROM GOWER ISLAND, SOLOMON ISLANDS

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Pteropus goweri, new species

TYPE.—No. 87201, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; ♂ ad.; Gower Island, Solomon Islands; September 19, 1930; collector, J. B. Riddall, Whitney South Sea Expedition. Skin and skull in good condition.

GENERAL CHARACTERS.—The "unmodified Pteropine" skull (Andersen) and short forearm (108–111 mm.) suffice to place *goweri* near *colonus*, *solomonis* and *howensis*.

Measurements (in millimeters) of *Pteropus goweri*.

	No. 87199 ♀	No. 87200 ♀	No. 87201 ♂ (type)	No. 87202 ♂	No. 87203 ♀
Forearm	111	110	108
Zygomatic width	28	28.3	31.3	31.4?	32.0
Width across canines	10.9	11.0	11.7	11.5
Orbital diameter	10.9	11.3	11.7	11.3
Mandibular length	41.2	40.8	43.2	43.7	42.1
C-m ²	20.1	20.0	22.1	21.3	20.4
C-m ₃	22.2	21.9	24.5	23.7	23.2
Length p ⁴	3.7	4.0	3.9	4.0	3.8
Length m ¹	4.5	4.8	4.8	4.6	4.6
Length m ²	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.7
Length m ₁	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.8
Length m ₂	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.0
Length m ₃	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.6

DESCRIPTION.—Texture and length of pelage about as in *howensis* and *colonus*. Length of hairs of back 10–12 mm., of mantle 12–15 mm. Tibia nearly naked. Color¹ of back Mars brown to Prout's brown, becoming slightly russet towards wing membranes; mantle near ochraceous orange paling to ochraceous buff posteriorly, and merging anteriorly with a grizzled mixture of clay-color and light ochraceous-buff. Neither mantle nor back in the type have more than a trace of dark bases to the

¹Colors are those of R. Ridgway, 1912, 'Color Standards and Color Nomenclature.'

hairs. Under surface with throat and abdomen mummy brown, the entire area of the chest, however, tawny, which anterior to the wings merges with the brighter color of the mantle. The inguinal region is also tawny.

Skull very close structurally to that of *howensis*, but with rostrum very slightly heavier.

Pteropus goweri is based upon a series of six specimens (2 ♂ ad., 3 ♀ ad., 1 ♀ juv.). The individuals of the series vary from the type as follows: the band of tawny across the chest may be narrowed antero-posteriorly (No. 87200, ♀); the hair tips of the crown of the head may be greatly whitened (No. 87199, ♀) or slightly so (No. 87203, ♀). In the juvenile ♀ (No. 87198) the mantle hue is already developed. Its color is near argus brown.

This bat may be distinguished from *colonus* by the color of the mantle and chest; from *howensis* by similar color differences coupled with shorter forearm; and from *admiralitatum* by the shorter forearm. It is smaller than any subspecies of *hypomelanus*.